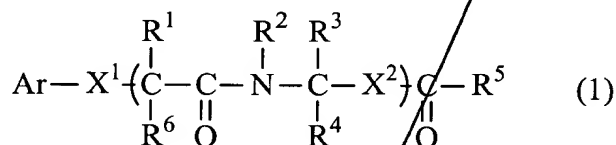


the intensity of ultraviolet rays was controlled by measuring by means of a ultraviolet rays meter "UVR-305/365-D (II) " (Clinical Supply).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A di- or tripeptide derivative having a naphthyl group and represented by the following Formula (1) or a salt thereof



wherein

Ar represents a naphthyl group which may have one or more substituents,

R¹, R² and R³ each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms which may have one or more substituents,

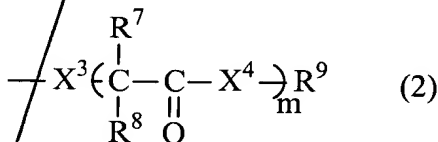
R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain, an amino group, an amidino group, a guanidiny group, a straight-chain or branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight chain or branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight-chain or branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or an amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, all of which may have one or more substituents,

X¹ is a single bond or an alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms, an aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms which may have as a substituent a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a straight-chain or branched-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

X² is a single bond or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom or -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n represents an integer of 0 or 1, and R⁵ represents a group represented by the following Formula (2),



wherein

X³ represents -O- or -NR¹⁰-,

X⁴ represents -O- or -NR¹¹-,

R⁷ represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁸, R¹⁰, and R¹¹ each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁹ represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 0 or 1.

2. (Amended) The peptide derivative or a salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1, wherein Ar of Formula (1) represents a 1-naphthyl group or a 2-naphthyl group,

R¹, R² and R³ of Formula (1) each represent a hydrogen atom,

R⁴ of Formula (1) represents a basic amino acid side chain having an amino group or a guanidino group,

X¹ of Formula (1) is a methylene group,

X² of Formula (1) is a single bond,

R⁶ of Formula (1) represents -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n of Formula (1) represents an integer of 1, and

R⁵ of Formula (1) represents a group represented by Formula (2),

wherein

X³ of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

X⁴ of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

R⁷ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain, or a straight-chain or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁸ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom,

R⁹ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

and m of Formula (2) represents an integer of 0 or 1.

3. (Amended) The peptide derivative or a salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said peptide derivative represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂ or L-2-naphthylalanyl-ArgLeuNH₂.

4. (Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

5. (Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, a melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibiting compound exhibiting a 50% inhibitory concentration of cAMP production (IC₅₀) of 100 nM or less.

6. (Amended) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said composition is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

7. (Amended) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory compound has a molecular weight of 800 or less.

8. (Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

9. (Amended) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

10. (Amended) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

11. (Amended) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (New) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5.

13. (New) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5

14. (New) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least at least one melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5.

15. (New) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5.

16. (New) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 4.

17. (New) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 4.